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Transcript of John Matthew Clark

Date: March 27, 2018

Case: Maryland Shall Issue, Inc., et al. -v- Hogan, et al.

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Phone: 888.433.3767

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EXHIBIT
26

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

3 MARYLAND SHALL ISSUE, INC., :

4 et al. :

5 Plaintiffs,:

6 v. : Civil Case No.

7 LAWRENCE HOGAN, et al. : 16-cv-3311-MJG

8 Defendants.:

9 -----

10 CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

11 Deposition of JOHN MATTHEW CLARK

12 Baltimore, Maryland

13 Tuesday, March 27, 2018

14 9:05 a.m.

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20 Job No.: 179483

21 Pages: 1 - 33

22 Reported By: Dawn M. Hart, RPR/RMR/CRR

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1 Q How often do you use it?

2 A Just occasionally, to punch holes in paper.
3 Target practice.

4 Q Okay. Got you.

5 Do you go to a range for that?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Which range?

8 A Hap Baker in Carroll County.

9 Q How far is that from your house?

10 A Maybe two miles.

11 Q Have you ever owned any other firearms?

12 A No.

13 Q How much did you pay for the gun?

14 A Maybe 400 and change.

15 Q Did you buy it new?

16 A Yes.

17 Q You have been identified in some discovery
18 responses in this case as someone who has been
19 deterred from purchasing a handgun by the requirements
20 of obtaining an HQL. Are you aware of that?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay. What is your understanding of what

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1 you would need to do to obtain an HQL?

2 A See if I can remember. I'm exempt from the
3 training because I previously owned a firearm, a
4 handgun, if I remember right. I would have to find
5 some place to have fingerprints taken, and pay, I
6 believe it's a 75-dollar fee to the State, and I think
7 that's it.

8 Q And these requirements have deterred you
9 from purchasing a handgun?

10 A Yes.

11 Q What other handgun do you want to buy?

12 A I want to get -- mine's a small conceal
13 carry. I wanted a larger, more comfortable to hold.

14 Q And why do you want this larger gun?

15 A Just more comfortable.

16 Q Do you have a particular type of handgun in
17 mind that you want to purchase?

18 A Another 9-millimeter.

19 Q And have you shopped for that?

20 A No.

21 Q Do you know how much it would cost?

22 A Probably about the same, four to 500.

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1 Q Have you done any research to determine
2 where you could have your fingerprints taken if you
3 decided to apply for an HQL?

4 A I did when it -- when the requirement first
5 came out. The place I would have used was Carroll
6 County Sheriff's Office. The new Sheriff dropped the
7 program.

8 Q When you say you did the research when the
9 requirement first came out, are you saying in 2013?

10 A Yes.

11 Q So that would have been what time of the
12 year in 2013? After you bought the gun that you have
13 now, or before?

14 A After the law officially -- actually, it
15 would have been 2014 because it was after it became
16 law.

17 Q And was there anything in particular that
18 prompted you to want to get this larger handgun at
19 that time?

20 A When I bought the first one, I was beating
21 the clock for all the laws that were being enacted and
22 it was slim pickings so I didn't really have time to

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1 really choose the one that I wanted.

2 Q And do you keep the gun for any other
3 purpose other than target practice?

4 A Home defense.

5 Q Anything else?

6 A No.

7 Q You don't use it to hunt?

8 A No.

9 Q So other than -- well, when you found out
10 that -- how did you find out that the Sheriff in
11 Carroll County was no longer offering fingerprinting
12 services?

13 A It was a bulletin on their website.

14 Q Have you ever been fingerprinted before?

15 A Yes.

16 Q For what purpose?

17 A Job at -- with the -- as a Defense
18 contractor.

19 Q When was that?

20 A 1996, 1997.

21 Q Is that the only time you've been
22 fingerprinted?

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1 A I was fingerprinted once as a kid with some,
2 you know, I don't know what you call it. It was in a
3 school, like with the child protection kidnaping
4 thing.

5 Q Okay. Any other times?

6 A No.

7 Q So once you found out that the Sheriff in
8 Carroll County was no longer offering fingerprinting
9 services, did you do any other research to determine
10 where you could get your fingerprints taken for an
11 HQL?

12 A Just some very light research.

13 Q What did you do?

14 A Checked the forum messages at
15 Marylandshooters.com to see who else was looking in my
16 area.

17 Q And did you -- is that a website?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And did you find out about any other
20 fingerprinting services that you could use to get an
21 HQL?

22 A There were some. I don't recall finding any

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1 in Carroll County, but there were others around with
2 varying fees.

3 Q What were the fees, do you remember?

4 A I think some were as high as 150.

5 Q What was the low?

6 A Seventy-five, I think.

7 Q Did any of these places that offered
8 fingerprinting services for HQL licenses tell you that
9 you had to do the fingerprinting only during business
10 hours, Monday through Friday?

11 A No, I did not go that far.

12 Q So you don't know whether or not you could
13 have it done on a weekend or in the evenings; is that
14 correct?

15 A Correct.

16 Q Did you ever go on the Maryland State Police
17 website to look -- to research additional places where
18 you could have your fingerprints taken for an HQL
19 application?

20 A I did once.

21 Q And what was the result of that?

22 A I honestly don't remember. Their website